

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217737

FOLLOWING REPEAT TOKYO 13905 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USUN NY
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QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13905

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNSC, JA, US

SUBJECT: US-JAPAN PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS: JAPAN'S BID
FOR SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT AND CHARTER REVIEW

1. DURING US-JAPAN PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS ON AUGUST 1,
UN BUREAU DIRGEN OKAWA EMPHASIZED THAT JAPAN WAS CONTIN-
UING TO PRESS ITS SC CANDIDACY. GOJ HAD DISCUSSED WITH
BANGLADESH POSSIBILITY OF ITS WITHDRAWING FROM RACE, BUT
SAW LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF THIS HAPPENING. OKAWA DOUBTED
THAT ASIAN GROUP WOULD BE ABLE TO AGREE ON EITHER BD OR
JAPAN AS A CANDIDATE, WHICH WOULD THEN THROW THE VOTE INTO
THE UNGA. HE ESTIMATED THAT JAPAN NOW HAD 25 FIRM VOTES
AND 37-38 LIKELY VOTES FOR TOTAL CONSIDERABLY SHORT OF
NECESSARY TWO-THIRDS. USUN POLMIN PETREE OBSERVED THAT
WHEN PRESENTED WITH CHOICE, GA OFTEN DECIDED IN FAVOR OF
COUNTRY BEST ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO WORK OF THE SC, I.E.,
IN THIS CASE JAPAN. HE CITED EXAMPLE OF NIGERIA'S
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SUCCESSFUL CANDIDACY LAST YEAR WHEN IT WAS IN COMPETITION
WITH NIGER.

2. OKAWA DESCRIBED ARGUMENTS JAPANESE WERE USING IN SC
CAMPAIGN, INCLUDING, INTER ALIA, THAT JAPAN WAS BETTER
EQUIPPED IN TERMS OF DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION WORLDWIDE
TO PLAY MAJOR SC ROLE, THAT SOUTH ASIANS HAD MONOPOLIZED

ASIAN SEAT ON SC IN RECENT YEARS, AND THAT WHILE JAPAN HAD BEEN ON COUNCIL SEVERAL TIMES IT WAS HARDLY UNIQUE IN THAT REGARD. MAYNES AND PETREE OFFERED VARIOUS THOUGHTS AS TO HOW GOJ ARGUMENTATION COULD BE MOST EFFECTIVELY FOCUSED.

3. IN REPLY TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES QUESTION ON JAPANESE OBJECTIVES IN CHARTER REVIEW, APART FROM ENLARGEMENT OF SC AND REMOVAL OF FORMER ENEMY CLAUSES, OKAWA SAID JAPAN WAS INTERESTED IN STRENGTHENING PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, ALTERING THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL AND STRENGTHENING THE COORDINATION ROLE OF ECOSOC. JAPANESE INTEREST IN ACHIEVING PERMANENT SC SEAT WAS NOT BEING CONSIDERED WITHIN GENERAL CONTEXT OF CHARTER REVIEW. MAYNES DISCUSSED U.S. THINKING CONCERNING WAYS TO IMPROVE SC PERFORMANCE, SUCH AS POSSIBILITY OF MORE INFORMAL, CLOSED SESSIONS. MANSFIELD
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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